

quality of life for Fayette County residents, protect our hunting and fishing lands, clean air, clean water, and protect the headwaters of some of Fayette County's rivers from disturbance, thus reducing the threats from flooding."

The Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau wrote to me and specifically requested the inclusion of the Big Draft and Spice Run areas as wilderness. They noted: "From the luxury of The Greenbrier Resort to the primitive Monongahela National Forest, visitors can choose their own unique experience while visiting Greenbrier County."

The Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau has also weighed in, stating: "We feel that designating additional wilderness areas will increase the strong economic base that outdoor recreation in Pocahontas County relies on. Benefits associated with designated wilderness are far reaching for the people of West Virginia, our wildlife populations and the land itself. Protecting our last few remaining wilderness areas will ensure that present and future generations can use and enjoy parts of the forest in their natural state."

Following is a brief description of the seven areas the West Virginia Delegation propose to be designated as wilderness—

**Big Draft:** This 5,242-acre area in the southern tip of the forest is located about 5 miles from White Sulphur Springs, the home of the famed Greenbrier Resort. According to the Forest Service evaluation of the area, the primary vegetative type is oak and hickory with pockets of hemlock and white pine as well as black hickory and sassafras. The evaluation makes note of the area's "natural untrammelled appearance, and natural ecological processes that are the primary factors affecting the area." Trout and small-mouth bass fishing is considered excellent. The area has also been popular for wilderness quality white-water trips down Anthony Creek, and the trout and rock bass fishing is excellent.

**Cheat Mountain:** Comprised of 7,955 acres, the area ranges in elevation from 3,000 to 3,800 feet and is a relatively flat forested plateau. The area is dissected by six streams flowing through rugged terrain dropping steeply to the river. According to the Forest Service evaluation, the vegetation consists of northern hardwood stands with some red spruce. It has a "natural untrammelled appearance" and "the opportunity to experience remoteness is good." Special features of the area include the High Falls of the Cheat, which is a major waterfall, and a favorite destination for hikers and excursion train visitors. Cheat Mountain is a favorite of hunters and anglers.

**Cranberry Expansion:** A proposed 12,032-acre addition to the highly popular Cranberry Wilderness, the expansion is located between the Williams River on the north and the Cranberry River on the south and west. According to the Forest Service evaluation, "both natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area . . ." It contains an excellent trail system and is held in high esteem by hunters, anglers and hikers. The combination of the Cranberry Wilderness, Cranberry Backcountry and Cranberry Expansion would create the largest area of non-motorized recreational opportunities in West Virginia—a vast silent forest primeval.

**Dolly Sods Expansion:** Another well-known and popular wilderness area, Dolly Sods, is proposed to be expanded by 7,215 acres to the north. Most of the area is a rolling plateau

of over 3,800 feet in elevation. The Allegheny Front drops 2,200 feet on the east, just outside the proposed wilderness boundary. According to the Forest Service evaluation, "the bog and heath eco-types are more typical of what one would expect to find in Maine or southern Canada rather than West Virginia." Views west from Cabin Mountain across the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge are outstanding.

**Dry Fork Expansion:** This small 740-acre proposed expansion of the Otter Creek Wilderness area has a high natural integrity and appearance and is dominated by spruce at its higher elevations with a mixture of northern hardwoods. This area occupies the northern and eastern flanks of McGowan Mountain leading down to the Dry Fork of the Cheat River. It provides much of the scenic view for this popular river, which contains excellent whitewater recreation opportunities and trout fishing.

**Roaring Plains West:** This 6,820-acre area located southwest of Dolly Sods ranges in elevation from 3,700 feet to over 4,700 feet and is, according to the Forest Service evaluation, minimally affected by outside forces. The Roaring Plains and Flatrock Plains areas encompassed by the proposed wilderness comprise the highest plateaus in the eastern United States. They are part of the geologic backbone of West Virginia called the Allegheny Front. The evaluation also notes it is remote backcountry, providing a good opportunity for solitude. Special features include an area known as Mt. Porte Crayon, with exceptional views.

**Spice Run:** A proposed 7,124-acre new wilderness, this area rises from the Greenbrier River on its western boundary and is an extremely remote place primarily accessible from the river. There are no system trails within the area. The elevation ranges from 2,000 feet along the Greenbrier River to 3,284 feet on the top of Slab Camp Mountain. Spice Run, along with Davy Run and Kincaid Run, cut steep hollows which delineate the terrain. Spice Run is one of the most remote places in the State and provides excellent opportunities for solitude and backcountry recreation.

In conclusion, I thank my colleagues in the West Virginia Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives in joining with me to introduce this bill, "Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places."

MR. THIERRY PORTÉ, NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleague, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, in congratulating Mr. Thierry Porté on his appointment as the new chairman of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. He will also serve as chairman of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange, known as CULCON.

The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission is an independent Federal agency that provides support, primarily through grants, to Americans to better understand and meet the chal-

lenges of the U.S.-Japan relationship. The commission consists of both private and certain designated public officials, and I am pleased to serve as one of two commissioners appointed from the House.

Mr. Porté was nominated to join the commission and serve as chairman last year with overwhelming support from commission members, and his appointment was recently approved by the White House.

His long and very direct experience in Japan and U.S.-Japan issues will serve the commission and CULCON well as we work to build greater understanding and strengthen ties between our two countries through the funding of educational, cultural, and academic programs. Mr. Porté has vast experience in the financial services industry and currently is the president and CEO of Shinsei Bank Limited.

He also is a member of the board of directors and chairman of the Finance Committee of the American School in Japan. Previously, he served as vice president and governor of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and in 2002–2003, Mr. Porté was a member of the Invest Japan Forum, which provided recommendations on the promotion of foreign direct investment in Japan to Prime Minister Koizumi.

But his interest in Japan extends beyond the financial markets—he is knowledgeable in Japanese culture and the arts as well, and he will bring a unique perspective to our efforts.

It is a privilege to have Mr. Porté serve as our chairman. I know he has the right background, skills and energy to continue to build on the important work of the commission.

CONGRATULATING MR. THIERRY PORTÉ FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Mr. Thierry Porté for his recent appointment as the new Chairman of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON).

Mr. Porté, who is the President and CEO of Shinsei Bank, Ltd. has a long and established history as an advocate for exchanges of ideas and culture between the U.S. and Japan. His distinguished experience in the business community as the first American to head a major Japanese bank combined with his work as Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation's Tokyo Advisory Board in promoting better educational and cultural relations between the two countries make him uniquely qualified for this position.

As a member of the JUSFC, which was established as an independent Federal agency by Congress in 1975 to administer a trust fund and makes grant to promote scholarly, cultural and public affairs activities between Japan and the U.S., I look forward to working with Mr. Porté over the next few years on coordinating the goals of the Commission and moving the bilateral relationship forward.